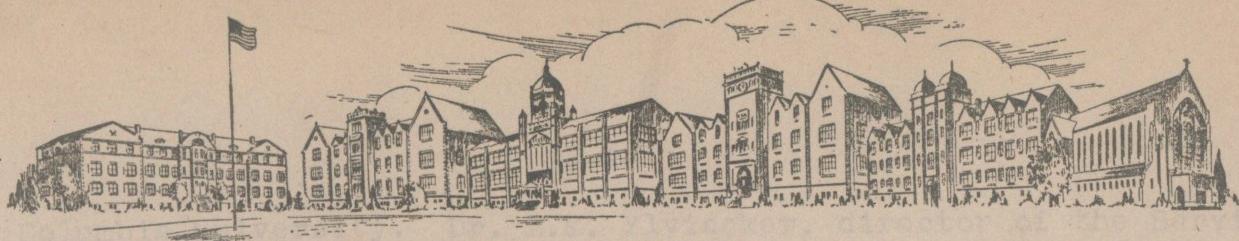


from



MUHLENBERG COLLEGE

Number 54

February 9, 1945

Greetings:

This is another week you can stick out your chest when you talk about Muhlenberg and its basketball team. The boys chalked up their 20th victory in 21 starts when they defeated the University of Pennsylvania--for the second time this season--in Rockne Hall on Wednesday night. In the first game with Penn in Philadelphia's Convention Hall, we defeated them 42-38. Wednesday night we managed to add another point to the margin for a final tally of 40-35.

Since we wrote to you the last time we have added five victories to the chain. We defeated Lehigh 53-26 in Bethlehem, previously undefeated Albright 59-34 in Allentown, Bucknell 35-33 in Lewisburg and 51-41 in a return game in Allentown, and then Penn 40-35.

Two of the toughest ones of the season are ahead. Tomorrow night we go to New York to play Columbia in the Columbia gym and we expect a battle because when we played the same team in Allentown just before Christmas, we nosed them out by only one point. Next Wednesday we go to Annapolis to play a really hot Naval Academy team. After that we tackle Albright in Reading on February 17, Franklin and Marshall in Lancaster on February 21, and the United States Coast Guard team of Philadelphia in Allentown on February 24. That's the last scheduled game and, unless we go into one of the Garden tourneys, the season will be over.

Incidentally, perhaps it won't be too long before we'll be playing our home basketball games in our own back yard. Announcement was made this week of an architectural competition to develop the plans for Muhlenberg's new sports building--that dream we have cherished for such a long time. Tentative specifications call for one of the most modern and adaptable buildings of its kind in the country--one of which every Muhlenberg man can be proud. It is to have a large basketball court with seating that can be adjusted to accomodate from 2,500 to 4,500 spectators, and a large ground floor for indoor soccer, football and baseball practice, indoor tennis courts, an indoor track, wrestling, and boxing rooms, and provisions for practically any sport but crew. Perhaps we can even add that down at Lake Muhlenberg. Plans are underway for raising the funds for the building so that construction can begin as soon as materials become available. Hold your wallets--we'll tell you all about it later.

And while we're talking about buildings, on an entirely different front, President Tyson is raising the funds to complete the dormitory quadrangle. In the new unit will be a student center with full facilities for recreation and other student activities. Yes sir--it's going to be a great Muhlenberg and you never will have to hesitate sticking your chest out about it. We have much more than a basketball team of which to be proud.

Before you fellows call us on the carpet again, we'd like to report that the wrestling season ended last night when the United States Merchant Marine Academy team blanked us 24 to 0. The Naval Academy team did the same thing a week or so before, but the score was 34 to 0. There was one bright spot in the season--and that was plenty bright: we defeated Lehigh 26 to 8--unheard of before in the field of wrestling.

Around the campus we're getting ready for another commencement at the end of February. If you haven't received your copy of the January issue of the Alumni Magazine we'll remind you that the commencement speaker will be Dr. Joseph Barker, special assistant to the Secretary of the Navy and in civilian life, the dean of the engineering faculty.

TO ITS FIGHTING MEN AROUND THE WORLD

at Columbia University. Dr. N.M. Ylvisaker, director of the Service Commission of the National Lutheran Council and president of the Chaplains' Association of the Army and Navy of the United States, will preach the baccalaureate sermon. Commencement will be at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 25 and the baccalaureate service at 10:30 o'clock that morning. The graduating class will be small, but we'll be sending nearly 100 Bluejackets on to advanced training.

In case you had any doubts about it, the Navy will be at Muhlenberg for another term, but on a reduced scale. We expect the unit to be just under 100 men for the term beginning March 1 and ending June 30. Remember, our first unit was 460 strong. Gradually the Navy seems to be meeting its quotas for trained officers and we have no idea of what will happen to the program after July 1.

Faculty news this week centers about Dr. Donald Shay, instructor in the biology department. Don leaves the campus at the end of this term to become associate professor of bacteriology and head of that department at the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, a unit of the University of Maryland. He has been at Muhlenberg for nearly four years and has done a great job. We're also sorry to report that Margaret Schwartz Ritter (Bill's wife) who has been helping us in the Alumni Office since John Wagner went into service a year ago, resigned last week. Kitty and Elsie are doing their best to carry on the job by themselves and are burning plenty of midnight oil. I'll give them the orchids from you fellows.

The fortunes of war have added the 16th Gold Star to our Service Flag. We have received notification that CAPTAIN CHARLES BARRIE '39 of Teaneck, N.J. was killed in action while leading his invading troops against the Japs on Leyte on October 21. For his gallantry in that action he received the posthumous award of the Silver Star.

We've also heard that four more of our 1,720 Muhlenberg men in the armed forces have been wounded: PRIVATE LEONARD SNYDER '32 in Germany on December 19; CAPTAIN JAMES F. BROWN '41 in Belgium on January 5; PRIVATE CHARLES "TIPPY" JOHNSON '31 in Belgium during the battle of the bulge; and STAFF SERGEANT RALPH KIEFFER '29 on his sixth mission over Germany.

While in a hospital in Paris, Brown met CAPTAIN JOE NOSAL '37 of the Army Medical Corps and later, on a hospital train, had a long talk with CORPORAL COSMO "GUS" MINIFRI '42. Johnson reports that he has been up in areas where "human relations are disturbingly strained." He expects to be 100 per cent in two or three months. Jim Brown says he "got beat up a little" during an engagement in Belgium and is chalking it up to experiences. As for Snyder, he says things could have been a lot worse.

Only overseas visitor we spotted this week was ENSIGN JIM HEMSTREET '44, just back from nine months in the Mediterranean theatre where he saw action on board an LCT. With his return, the College display of war trophies includes a German helmet that ENSIGN DENNY BEATTIE '43 picked up in the invasion of Elba and an Italian helmet Hemstreet picked up in Italy. He also brought us a German enlisted man's belt with its fancy buckle. More foreign currency was added to the collection as the result of Hemstreet's travels. In a little while--very little--he expects to be heading out once again, maybe we'll get a Jap helmet too.

T/5 RICHARD ERB, reporting from Hawaii, assures us that Oahu is beautiful and that he enjoyed the boat ride as much as a kid on his first train ride. LIEUTENANT BOB RUHF '41 still likes India, but after being there for 18 months will be glad to see the States once again. JOHNNY SCHOLL '40, who has had a San Francisco APO address for some time, tells us to write to him, temporarily, at his home address in Hellertown. At long last SK3/c HARLAND LEELAND '45 confirms the rumor that he's a radio announcer at a swanky Armed Forces Radio Station known as "The Voice of the Admiralties". He writes the newscasts for the station and does some of the announcing. Matter of fact, he likes it so much he's thinking about making it his profession or vocation.

CHAPLAIN ERNEST MOYER '15 is stationed at a General Hospital that has a New York APO address. He has met some men from Allentown, but as yet not a one from Muhlenberg. SERGEANT HARRY GRACE '45, who also writes from a New York APO address, is interested to know whether Hap has any hunches on when the war will be over. Haps says he never had hunches on WHEN games would end. He just predicts the outcome. In this one he knows his hunch is right--it can't be anything else but, says the man who is as big and quiet as ever, with 1,720 or more Muhlenberg men in there pitching.

Now that he is in the Philippines, CAPTAIN GEORGE BRONG '35 hopes he'll be fortunate in meeting a few Muhlenberg men. In his 20 months in the Southwest Pacific he hasn't bumped into a single one. The War Department reports that SECOND LIEUTENANT PAUL BALZE '44 has arrived in England as pilot of a B-17 Flying Fortress of the Eighth Air Force and from the communiqué, we suspect he is taking part in some of those bombing attacks on Germany that we have been reading about.

The last letter from CAPTAIN FRED DRY '32 written just before Christmas from the front lines in Germany, came through badly singed and with a note from the New York Postmaster indicating that it was recovered from a mail-carrying plane "that was in an accident." Dry reports that each town you pass through in Germany has been leveled to the ground but says that is the way the Germans want to fight. He now is assistant regimental surgeon, an advance from his former job as battalion surgeon. T/5 HERB GORIN '35 says a lot more people in England know about Muhlenberg, where it is and what it is doing, than ever heard about it before. PFC. ROY A. BUTTERWICK '46 was in a rest camp in Belgium when he wrote to us the middle of last month and the rest, he assured us, was really needed. ENSIGN ART TAYLOR '44 is roaming the Pacific on a Navy tanker--still looking for JACK CLIFFORD '43 and a few of the boys. Clifford and CHUCK MORAN '43 stay together in the Pacific area, still on their P-T boats and still seeing plenty of what Moran calls "the little brown men."

Just before he embarked from Oahu for the Mariannas, LIEUTENANT MARVIN GEIGER '37 met LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROLAND HARTMAN '31 but missed out on a dinner date with him. Geiger is on his second overseas assignment. His APO is 246, San Francisco, and he'd like to meet any other Muhlenberg men in that area. PFC. GEORGE RIZOS '44 has had a change of scenery, but censorship prevents him from telling what he is doing in France. On duty in a night club in Paris, SERGEANT CARL RITTER '30 of the Military Police discovered that champagne costs \$12 a bottle, plus tip, and discovered how it can be nursed for a whole evening while watching an ever-changing floor show. PFC. DON MELCHER '47 also is in France, working 12 hours a day in a hospital operating room. The island in the Mariannas that is a temporary home for Y2/c ALBERT BESSBRIS '41 is the best he has hit yet with coconuts, bananas, and citrus fruits growing wild everywhere. He claims there still are quite a few Japs around, but they don't prove bothersome.

The other night, coming home from a meeting in Philadelphia, we met CHAPLAIN RAYMOND ANDREWS '30, just back from 18 months of duty with a Seabee Battalion in the South Pacific. Leyte is included among the islands that will be written into his log book. After a 30-day visit with his family in Sellersville, he will report to the Naval Air Station at Jacksonville. KENNETH MOYER '34, somewhere in France, is another of the boys who has not met a single Muhlenberg man (or a married one for that matter--corn, corn) since he has been in service. Perhaps LIEUTENANT BOB ALBEE '42 doesn't like us--at least he tells us he has sent us a Japanese red phosphorous bomb and suggests the Chemistry Department salvage the phosphorous. Note: the bomb hasn't arrived as yet and, frankly, we doubt whether it will--and that doesn't mean that we mistrust Albee. BRUCE BAUMAN '42 says the boy must be getting island happy. Incidentally, the day after Bruce returned to Washington from his 36-hour honeymoon he was assigned to duty at New River. The snap, says Bauman, was too good to last. When he crossed the Equator sometime before landing on the Philippines, PFC. GORDON TREISBACH '37 had the very painful experience of becoming a shellback. The Navy, he says, really poured it on. Note to LIEUTENANT WILMER CRESSMAN '42, who incidentally is about due to be heard from.

PFC. BILL GRIFFIN '37 is in China with the 14th Army Air Force. His work, involving both head and hands, is interesting but under the censor's shears. ENSIGN PAUL BOTTIGER '43 has an interesting assignment in the Pacific area and may have some good pictures to exhibit at the Victory Reunion. SERGEANT EDWARD BOSSICK '43 writing from Holland, says he just came back from Paris where he saw just about everything he wanted to see. He was impressed by the number of French people who speak English. From "Somewhere at Sea" comes word that CAPTAIN KENNY LAMBERT '39 is heading into a new theatre of operations for service with a medical unit. Travelling overseas for the past two years, CPL. ROY DIEFENDERFER '30 has been through Africa, Italy, Corsica, and now is in Southern France. LIEUTENANT KENNY BACHMAN '39 of the Medical Corps, is the medical officer of an LCS (L) group with a San Francisco Fleet Post Office address. He is in charge of the medical services for 12 of the ships and has two other doctors, a chief pharmacist mate and twelve pharmacist mates first class on his staff. CHAPLAIN ISRAEL YOST '37 is mighty proud of the newsreel pictures of his unit of Japanese-American troops rescuing a lost battalion in the Vosges Mountains of France. On Christmas his unit gave a party for 400 French children--their first Christmas celebration in five years. On armed guard duty for the past six months, ENSIGN GEORGE MARSHALL '39 has covered a good bit of the globe. We haven't seen LIEUTENANT GEORGE LEGG '37, but he is spending a little while at home after 18 months of service as a Navy doctor in the South Pacific.

(The first three pages of this letter had been mimeographed when the Athletic Office reported that the last home basketball game had been changed from Feb. 24 to Feb. 19).

We've skipped promotions for so many letters that we better lock up the mail bag right now to give us enough space to get up to date on those advancements. As for the names of men who are entering service, I guess we'll just have to wait to report those until the March issue of the Alumni Magazine goes to press. And about that domestic mail--if you don't see it in these letters, you can read about the rest of the boys in the class flash columns of the Alumni Magazine. After all, we are limited to four pages and we suspect that's about all you have time to read anyway.

Here are the promotions that have come in during the past few weeks SERGEANT ALLEN REX '33; SERGEANT WILLIAM A. SMITH '45; SERGEANT FRED JOHNSON '44; SECOND LIEUTENANT WILBUR F. PRICE '44; CAPTAIN HUBERT C. MEYERS '36; CORPORAL TRACY STORCH '45; ENSIGN WILLIAM H. EVANS '45; Sp(A)1/c ELMER G. HOFFMAN '30; FIRST LIEUTENANT HENRY K. WETHERHOLD '45; SECOND LIEUTENANT HAROLD REASER '45; PRIVATE FIRST CLASS GILBERT KASKEY '45; ENSIGN WILLIAM BARBA '44; FIREMAN SECOND CLASS ROBERT C. SMITH '44; PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ROY BUTTERWICK '46; LIEUTENANT (j.g.) JOSEPH R. REICHARD '34; CAPTAIN IRA S. FRITZ '23; PRIVATE FIRST CLASS DONALD MELCHER '47; SERGEANT ROY F. SCHMOYER '41; LIEUTENANT (j.g.) PAUL SNYDER '40; ENSIGN DANIEL MONASTERO '44; SEAMAN FIRST CLASS JONAS W. KURTZ '28; LIEUTENANT (j.g.) ROBERT C. REBER '40; PRIVATE FIRST CLASS WILLIAM GRIFFIN '37; LIEUTENANT FREDERICK GEHR '32; PRIVATE FIRST CLASS GORDON TREISBACH '37; STAFF SERGEANT ROBERT BITTNER '24; SERGEANT GERALD STILLWAGON '43; SERGEANT ROBERT HUMPHREY '44; MAJOR FRED G. SCHONENBERG '39; STAFF SERGEANT RALPH KIEFFER '29; Sp(A)1/c EDWARD MILLER '37; LIEUTENANT (j.g.) CALVIN LOEW '43; LIEUTENANT WILLIAM FLUCK '38; SERGEANT HARRY GRACE '45; ENSIGN EDWARD S. PHILLIPS '45; SECOND LIEUTENANT JOSEPH SCHLEGEL '42; and SKT2/c GERALD C. KLOSS '39.

That's the story for this time. I hope it finds all of you hitting it hard on all cylinders. We'll try to do the same back here on the campus and you can count on us to do anything we possibly can to help you. Continued good luck--and let's hear from you.

Sincerely,

Gordon
Gordon B. Fister
For the Alumni Office

P.S. Our thanks again go to a dozen faithful members of the Woman's Auxiliary of the College who every two weeks volunteer to handle the mailing of these 1720 letters.